

PATENT

Serial No. 09/653,782

Amendment in Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 8 as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a receiver,
2 comprising:
3 (a) energizing the receiver,
4 (b) detecting the presence of a carrier signal,
5 (c) de-energising the receiver if the carrier signal is not
6 detected,
7 (d) maintaining the energisation of the ~~reciever~~ receiver if
8 the carrier signal is detected,
9 (e) demodulating the detected carrier signal,
10 (f) assessing the quality of the demodulated signal,
11 (g) de-energising the receiver if the quality of the
12 demodulated signal is not acceptable, and
13 (h) decoding the demodulated signal if the signal quality is
14 acceptable.
- 1 2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized by
2 measuring the received signal strength indication (RSSI) as a means
3 for detecting the presence of the carrier signal.

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1 3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1,
2 characterized by measuring signal quality as a measure for
3 determining if a signal is decodable.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a
2 primary station having a transmitter for transmitting a signal and
3 at least one secondary station having a receiver for receiving
4 signals from the primary station, the receiver comprising signal
5 receiving means, means for detecting the presence of a received
6 signal, means for detecting the quality of the received signal and
7 power control means for de-energising the receiver ~~if the presence~~
8 ~~of a signal is not detected or if the presence of the signal is~~
9 detected and the detected signal is not decodable.

1 5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in
2 that means for determining the received signal strength indication
3 (RSSI) is coupled to the signal receiving means.

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

1 8. (Currently Amended). A battery-powered radio, comprising:

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2 a receiver circuit, the receiver circuit operable to produce a
3 received signal from a channel;

4 a received signal strength indicator circuit coupled to the
5 receiver circuit, the received signal strength indicator circuit
6 operable to produce an output indicating an amount of power in the
7 channel;

8 a demodulator circuit coupled to the receiver circuit, the
9 demodulator operable to produce a demodulated signal from the
10 received signal;

11 a signal quality indicator circuit coupled to the demodulator
12 circuit;

13 a decoder circuit coupled to the demodulator circuit; and

14 a microprocessor coupled to the receiver, the received signal
15 strength indicator circuit, the signal quality indicator circuit
16 and the decoder circuit;

17 wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize and de-
18 energize the receiver circuit; determine the presence of a carrier
19 with a carrier detect false rate, based, at least in part, on the
20 power in the channel, and to determine ~~and an~~ acceptable signal
21 quality with a signal quality false rate, based, at least in part,
22 on an output of the signal quality indicator circuit;

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23 wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize the
24 receiver circuit for a first period of time, and, if the carrier is
25 determined to be present, to then maintain the receiver in the
26 energized state until a determination is made as to whether
27 acceptable signal quality has been obtained, and to de-energise the
28 receiver if the carrier is determined to be present and the signal
29 quality is not acceptable.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

1 10. (Previously Presented) The battery-powered radio of Claim
2 8, wherein the microprocessor is operable to de-energize the
3 receiver circuit if the carrier is determined to not be present,
4 without performing a signal quality determination.

1 11. (Previously Presented) The battery-powered radio of Claim
2 10, further comprising:
3 a metering unit coupled to the microprocessor;
4 an encoder circuit coupled to the microprocessor; and
5 a radio transmitter circuit coupled to the encoder circuit.